

2016 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 874

BY REPRESENTATIVE NANCY LANDRY

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY: Provides relative to school and district accountability

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 17:10.1, relative to the school and district accountability system;
3 to specify that the school and district accountability system shall be for public
4 schools and school districts; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 17:10.1 is hereby amended and reenacted to read as follows:

7 §10.1. School and district accountability system; purpose; responsibilities of state
8 board

9 A. It is the purpose of this Section to:

10 (1) Provide for the development and implementation of a school and district
11 accountability system which requires and supports student achievement in each
12 public elementary and secondary school.

13 (2) Provide assurance to the citizens that the quality of education in each
14 public elementary and secondary school is monitored and maintained at levels
15 essential for each student to receive a minimum foundation of education.

16 (3) Provide clear standards and expectations for public schools and school
17 systems so that assessment of their effectiveness will be understood.

18 (4) Provide information that will assist public schools and school systems
19 in order that energies and resources may be focused on student academic
20 achievement.

1 B. The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, hereafter
 2 referred to as the "state board", shall provide for a statewide system of accountability
 3 for public schools and school districts based on student achievement and minimum
 4 standards for the approval of schools pursuant to R.S. 17:10. ~~Beginning with the~~
 5 ~~2011-2012 school year, such~~ Such system shall be based, in part, on growth in
 6 student achievement using a value-added assessment model as determined by the
 7 state board. The program shall include, at a minimum, clear and appropriate
 8 standards for public schools and school districts, indicators for the assessment of
 9 public schools and school districts, student achievement baselines, student growth
 10 targets, and appropriate minimum levels of student achievement for each public
 11 school and school district, rewards and corrective actions, specific intervals for
 12 assessment and reassessment of public schools and school districts, a review process
 13 for evaluating growth targets, and technical assistance.

14 C. The state board shall develop and adopt a policy to invalidate student
 15 achievement growth data using a value-added assessment model for any school year
 16 in which there is a natural disaster or any other unexpected event that results in the
 17 temporary closure of schools.

18 D.(1) The state board shall, by rule, define "financially at risk" as a status of
 19 any city, parish, or other local public school board the unresolved finding of which
 20 subjects the school system and its board to the provisions of Chapter ~~9B~~ 9-B of Title
 21 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 regarding the judicial appointment of
 22 a fiscal administrator.

23 (2) Each city, parish, or other local public school board shall be notified on
 24 a regular basis by the state Department of Education of its status related to the
 25 elements of the definition of "financially at risk".

26 E. The ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education~~ state board shall
 27 not use any performance data or indicator, including student academic achievement,
 28 test scores, attendance rates, dropout rates, or completion rates, related to students
 29 enrolled in an alternative school or educational program operated within a juvenile

1 residential center, juvenile detention center, or any facility under the jurisdiction of
2 the office of juvenile justice in the calculation of any school or district performance
3 score or measure for the city, parish, or other local public school system within the
4 boundaries of which such facility is located.

5 F. In addition to any other performance-related labels or designations
6 assigned to public schools and school districts pursuant to the school and district
7 accountability system, the ~~State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education~~ state
8 board, in consultation with parents, teachers, school administrators, and other
9 education stakeholders, shall develop a letter grade system reflective of public school
10 and school district performance that shall include but not necessarily be limited to
11 the following:

12 (1)(a) Assignment of a letter grade to each public elementary and secondary
13 school and school district that is based upon the current method of determining
14 school and district performance scores.

15 (b) Any school that has been labeled academically unacceptable shall be
16 assigned a grade of "F".

17 (2) Inclusion of the letter grade assigned to each public school and school
18 district in the school report cards compiled by the state Department of Education and
19 distributed to parents and in any public release of school and district performance
20 scores.

21 (3) Creation of an honor roll which recognizes all high-performing schools
22 and high schools with graduation rates that exceed the state average, which shall ~~also~~
23 be made public when information relative to school and district performance scores
24 and letter grades are released.

DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

HB 874 Original

2016 Regular Session

Nancy Landry

Abstract: Provides relative to school and district accountability.

Present law, relative to school and district accountability, provides that present law's purpose is to:

- (1) Provide for the development and implementation of a school and district accountability system which requires and supports student achievement in each public school.
- (2) Provide assurance to the citizens that the quality of education in each public school is monitored and maintained at levels essential for each student to receive a minimum foundation of education.
- (3) Provide clear standards and expectations for schools and school systems so that assessment of their effectiveness will be understood.
- (4) Provide information that will assist schools and school systems in order that energies and resources may be focused on student academic achievement.

Proposed law specifies throughout present law that the school and district accountability system is applicable to public schools and otherwise retains present law.

Present law requires the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) to provide for a statewide system of accountability for schools and school districts based on student achievement and minimum standards for the approval of schools.

Proposed law specifically refers to public schools and otherwise retains present law.

Present law provides, beginning with the 2011-12 school year, that such system shall be based, in part, in student achievement using a value-added assessment model as determined by the state board.

Proposed law deletes this obsolete reference to a past school year, makes other technical revisions, and otherwise retains present law.

(Amends R.S. 17:10.1)